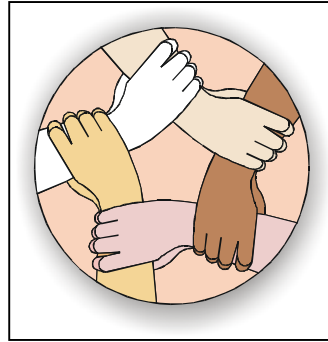


Our Council Goals

- Promote optimal functioning for consumers across the life domains by removing barriers to services. The Council's focus will be education for children; supported employment for adults; and/or meaningful daily activities for older adults.
- Oversee the Federal Block Grant, including recommending the plan, amendments and reports submitted by the Mental Health Division to the Center for Mental Health Services.
- Develop and take advocacy positions concerning legislation, funding and regulations affecting mental health services through the use of mental health statistics for decision-making and planning.
- Support and advocate for quality, cost-effective and individualized consumer/family-based services through evidence-based best practice models of care. Support research and use of promising practices through continuous quality improvement.
- Support education about mental illness and other mental disorders in an effort to reduce stigma.



The Council thanks the state of Washington for its commitment to a consumer and family driven public mental health system. We offer our support and assistance in system transformation.

Council Contact Information

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Washington State Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council



“Plan, Advocate and Evaluate”

The Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council is the citizen advisory council mandated by Washington and Federal Law to review Mental Health Division policies, plans, and budgets and to make recommendations and assure a strong link between government decisions and consumer needs and concerns.

Web Site:

www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/mhpac.shtml

Who Are We?

The Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (the “Council”) membership consists of 30 consumers, advocates and providers from around the state and members from designated governmental and regional agencies.

Our Purpose

- Advise Washington State and Federal government about its plans which affect mental health services.
- Monitor, review and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services for children, adults and older adults in Washington State.
- Advise the Washington State government about quality of mental health services for children, adults and older adults who rely on publicly-funded programs.
- Develop and adopt advocacy positions on legislation and regulations that affect publicly-funded mental health services.

What Do We Offer?

We offer a passionate consumer voice and belief in Recovery and Resiliency.

We offer collective knowledge and experience for providing support and consultation regarding mental health care policy and budget planning.

Current Trends That Need Attention!

In our experience, the following trends are the most troubling:

- Statewide inconsistencies in public mental health services.
- Non-Medicaid services are not available in most counties resulting in thousands of consumers being denied access to outpatient care which leads to expensive emergency room and hospitalization services.
- Caseloads are rising sharply, compromising consumer care and recovery.
- Number of homeless and incarcerated people with mental illness is rising sharply.
- Services to children, adults and older adults are decreasing.
- Federal funding decreases due to state match.

The Council’s 2006 Legislative Priorities

- Continue efforts to fully fund on an on-going basis non-Medicaid services historically offered by RSNs.
- Establish adequate community-based options such as Expanded Community Services *before* downsizing hospitals.
- Suspend liquidated damages procedure against RSNs.
- Support Washington State’s efforts to implement mental health parity legislation passed in 2005.
- Support development and funding of consumer-run mental health services.
- Establish and maintain community-based options for children’s services.

Short Position Statements

The following are summary statements regarding selected legislative priorities.

• Fully Fund Non-Medicaid Services

The Council appreciates the legislature’s efforts in 2005 to address funding of non-Medicaid services. Non-Medicaid services will continue to require long-range funding in order to plan, implement and adequately meet the needs of children, adults and older adults throughout the state of Washington

• Mental Health Transformation

The Council supports transformation of the current mental health system for children, adults and older adults through cross-system collaboration focused on recovery, resiliency, and consumer-run services such as Clubhouses and peer to peer support.

• Medicaid Reimbursement

We support raising the Medicaid rate of reimbursement from 10 percent to 50 percent of the range.

What Do We Want?

We want *your* assistance to improve the quality of mental health services for all children, adults and older adults who rely on publicly-funded care in Washington State.

